

Creating Inclusive Learning Environments

Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. is Making it Happen!



OUR PROMISING PRACTICE

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is:

A framework based on the three networks of the brain involved in learning; The Recognition Network or the “What” of learning, the Strategic Network or the “How” of learning, and the Affective Network or the “Why” of learning. BCSC educators utilize UDL to intentionally create an inclusive learning environment and learning experience that is accessible and conducive to all learners.

UDL consists of guidelines for teachers that provide options for all students in becoming expert learners. Through the implementation of the UDL framework, student test scores in all sub groups increased annually from 2009 to 2014. Specifically, the passing rate for students with disabilities taking ISTEP increased by 22.4% in LA, 32% in Math and 24.3% in both. The graduation rate for students with disabilities also increased 59.3% to 81.3%, closing the gap with general education from 22.8% to 8.5%. These improved student learning outcomes are the result of improved learning environments and teacher instructional effectiveness supported by the UDL framework. Eighty Five percent (85%) of students with disabilities spend eighty percent (80%), or more, of their instructional day in general education learning environments. At one time BCSC had approximately seventeen percent (17%) of the student population identified as special education. With each passing year, this percentage has consistently decreased. Because we are focused on meeting the needs of all students through the implementation of UDL, the percentage of identified students has dropped to approximately eleven percent (11%).

OUR STEPS

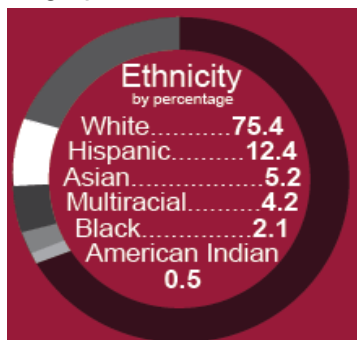
UDL was initially created as a service delivery plan, focused on special education. In time, building level teams were trained and UDL goals became part of school improvement plans. Instructional Consultation Teams were implemented and training was broadened to school-wide. In 2012 INTASS guided us in the development of our customized teacher success rubric. In 2015, our district began to focus on measuring schoolwide learning outcomes. Today, UDL continues to be the framework through which all initiatives and practices are implemented.



WE ARE an 11,500-student school district encompassing the area of Columbus, Indiana, a large town located 40 miles south of Indianapolis.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

54 native languages are spoken across all of BCSC. Our demographic breakdown is:



IN OUR OWN WORDS

“My students were actively engaged and seemed to enjoy the lessons. By the end of the year my lowest students were higher than normal. My highest students were at a much higher level.” BCSC Kindergarten Teacher

“The BCSC staff who worked with my child were very patient and dedicated. They kept in contact with me and worked with me to show me things I could do at home to help. In my eyes these people are heroes, true heroes.” BCSC Parent

“To me UDL is something created to help people like me who learn different.” BCSC Student

For more information about our school or corporation, email: vanhorn@bcsc.k12.in.us
or visit our website: www.bcsc.k12.in.us